

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



February 4, 2008

Reply to Attn of

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Congressional and Industry Reception, February 27, 2008

On February 27, 2008, the Coalition for Space Exploration will be hosting a reception to honor the STS-120 astronauts, with support from its members, including Boeing, Lockheed Martin, the Space Foundation, Honeywell, Ball Aerospace, the United Space Alliance, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Science Applications International Corporation, and United Technologies Corp. The event will be held in the Senate Office Building from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. A video of the STS-120 mission and a related NASA exhibit will be on display during the course of the reception.

Approximately 600 to 700 people will be invited with about 150 expected to attend. Attendees will include House and Senate Congressional members and staff, NASA personnel, industry representatives, and members of the public. The cost of the food and refreshments to be provided at the reception will be approximately \$35 per person. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g).

I have determined that free attendance of NASA employees is in the best interests of the Agency because it will further NASA programs and operations. It would provide an informal opportunity for NASA astronauts, officials, and staff to confer and discuss the STS-120 mission and future Shuttle missions with members of Congress and key Congressional staff, industry representatives, and other attendees.

Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event for themselves and their invited spouses or guests. NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.205(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.


Adam F. Greenstone